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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Reserve DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1165	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.

Dated 25-8-1876-196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1165
1

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
25th August 1876.*

No. 269. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th August 1876, No. 1,979 :—

Read the following letters :—

From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Coimbatore, 18th July 1876, No. 146.

With reference to Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 30th May 1876,

- 1 Copy of letter from the Sub-Collector, No. 137, of 8th July 1876. No. 1,415, regarding the alleged illicit sale of toddy interfering with the sale of arrack as reported by the Collector of North Arcot in his district, on which I am called on to report as regards this district, I have the honor to annex copies of letters* from two of my Division Officers on the subject, from which it appears that such illicit sales, when brought to notice, are duly punished, and have not been numerous.
- 1 Copy of letter from the Head Assistant Collector, No. 99, of 11th July 1876.

* The report of the Deputy Collector, Northern Division, has not as yet been received. It will be sent as soon as received.

Officers on the subject, from which it appears that such illicit sales, when brought to notice, are duly punished, and have not been numerous.

2. I have no record of such cases being brought before me in my own division, but I had one of illicit distillation of arrack, which I severely punished.

3. There is no doubt that there has been a very much larger consumption of licit toddy since its sale was separated from that of arrack; but this is natural, and was the obvious intention of Government when they dissociated the sales; as an example, I give the Oodoomulpettah Taluq, where one-eighth million of people had only one toddy shop; now they have twelve, which is one shop for 10,000 people.

4. A far more likely cause for the less sale of sudder distillery arrack is the preference of the people for their old small still arrack, which was strong, undiluted, cheap, and to the taste of the people; so far from the small sale of the new system surprising me, I am only surprised that it should have been so large as it is.

5. If an attempt had been made in a European count to change in one month the practice of centuries in thousands of villages without a large preventive service, the attempt would have been thought an inconsiderate one.

6. I proposed the gradual decrease of small stills—not that they produce other than the best of spirits, and at all events spirits which are preferred to the produce of copper stills,—in order that, as desired by Government, the new system might come into eventual operation; the experience of three years would have paved the way to the new system; but instead of this by a stroke of the pen more than 1,000 stills were thrown out of work, and what was the day before legal became the next day illegal; the tastes of the people were to be altered in one day. This is a difficult matter with nearly two millions of people, but because certain tenders were made the old system recommended by me and agreed to by the Board was suddenly changed.

7. As regards toddy consumption, licit or illicit, preventing the consumption of arrack, it should be kept in mind that the consumers of the liquors are not always the same people. For instance, one class of numerous consumers of toddy is the Wodder or "Navy" of the country who is always in work, blasting stone, sinking wells, and generally doing heavy earthwork.

8. These powerful men are great consumers of toddy; they work in the sun from morning till night at great expenditure of animal force. If they were to drink

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
25th August 1876.*

arrack, they would simply unfit themselves for their muscular exertions. To them toddy is a refreshing drink with a large amount of saccharine nourishment therein.

9. It will be generally found that the people are the best judges of what suits their tastes and constitutions, and I protested against any attempt by the denial of toddy shops to force the consumption of arrack on the people; the fact is that the number of shops for both toddy and arrack should be equal, not as now arranged, half toddy to one arrack, regarding even which an outcry has been made.

10. If properly developed, which is likely to result from the separation of the sales of the two liquors, there is every chance of as large, if not larger, revenue being derived from toddy than from arrack; the consumption of toddy could hardly be guessed at when the contract was given; the bidding doubled the estimate, and nearly a lakh annually is now the revenue from it to Government.

11. At the conclusion of this lease I expect that more than two lakhs will be offered, and Government will have the satisfaction of realizing a good revenue from a less unwholesome source than alcohol.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From G. McWATTERS, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated Kangayam, 8th July 1876, No. 137.

WITH reference to your memorandum of the 5th instant, No. 615, requesting me to expedite my report on Board's Proceedings, dated 30th May 1876, No. 1,415, regarding the illicit sale of toddy in the sub-division, I have the honor to state that illicit sales of toddy, no doubt, do take place, but not to any considerable extent.

2. For several months past the Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars have given much attention to the subject in consequence of complaints preferred to me by Mr. Gough, and they have not reported the existence of a single unlicensed shop. The arrack contractor's own Inspectors too have done their best to find out unlicensed shops without success. In Fasli 1285 the total number of convictions for selling toddy without license in the sub-division was sixty-nine, and thirty-three of these were in Kangayam, thirteen in Perindoray, and ten in Darapuram. I believe that the majority of illicit sales are detected, and at any rate that the extent to which they prevail would not appreciably affect the arrack contract.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) G. MACKENZIE,
for Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From G. MACKENZIE, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated 11th July 1876, No. 99.

In answer to your endorsement on Board's Proceedings, No. 1,415, of the 30th May 1876, I have the honor to report that the three Tahsildars in my division have not discovered any instances of unlicensed shops for the sale of toddy. In Pulladum Taluq there have been two cases of sale of toddy in places other than those mentioned in the license, and there have been several convictions for smuggling toddy. It is very possible that toddy is sold without license, and such practices do exist without a preventive service.

(Signed) G. MACKENZIE,
for Collector.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
25th August 1876.*

From A. M. JONES, Esq., Deputy Collector, Northern Division, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated Suttiamungalum, 18th July 1876, No. 95.

WITH reference to your endorsement, No. 569, dated 16th ultimo, appended to Revenue Board's Proceedings, No. 1,415, dated 30th May last, I have the honor to inform you that the practice of either manufacturing or selling toddy without a license, or selling it at other than the places specified in the license, does not prevail largely in this division.

2. The Tahsildar of Collegal reports that in 1875 in two cases, one of selling toddy without a license and the other of selling it at other than the place specified in the license, he convicted the parties.

3. The Tahsildar of Suttiamungalum reports that the Shanars (toddy-drawers by profession) draw toddy for domestic consumption from their topes and supply them to their friends.

4. He reports that this practice,* though not penal under Section 28 of the Act (III of 1864), is most objectionable, and that he has punished parties in a few cases recently charged before him under the authority of notification published in the District Gazette (page No. 233) of 1872.

5. The Tahsildars have been directed to give this matter their personal attention in the course of tours through their taluqs.

No. 154.

Submitted to the Board of Revenue with reference to Collector's note in the margin of paragraph 1 of his letter, dated 18th instant, No. 146.

POLLACHY,
26th July 1876.

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Collector.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The Collector will report what the proportion of toddy to arrack shops now is, and whether the number of the former is sufficient. There would have been no outcry had the number of shops been fixed prior to the lease of the Arrack Farm, and it rested with the Collector to see that provision was made for the wants of the toddy-consumers. He should explain why he did not permit an equal number of toddy and arrack shops if he thought it necessary, and should state whether any additional shops were allowed with reference to G. O., dated 18th February 1876, No. 244, and whether any increase is necessary at present.

(True Copies extract.)

C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
25th August 1876.*

No. 270. ORDER THEREON, 25th August 1876, No. 1,165.

Separate Revenue, No. 25A.

<i>Abkari.</i>

RECORDED.

2. The Board will circulate Mr. Wedderburn's letter to all Collectors, and call their attention to the importance

of giving a liberal allowance of toddy shops to meet the requirements of the different districts.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. A. Grubert.

M. A. Franklin recd - 1st Sept 1872

Extract from the Coimbatore District Gazette of 18. May 1872 Page 233.

Under Section 28, Act III of 1864, the Board of Revenue hereby declare that the home manufacture of fermented liquor for bona fide domestic consumption and not for sale, which has hitherto been permitted under the aforesaid Act, will be illegal in all parts of the Presidency except the border mountains of South Canara and the Agency tracts of Ganjam and Vizagapatnam, unless duly licensed, from the 1st July 1872.

Obdt. of 118761 Madras

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE

Dated August, 25th.

G.O. 25th August 1872, No. 1,988

AUGUST.

No. 269-270.

Notice of today in the Coimbatore District.—Regarding Proceedings of the Board of Revenue relative to the —; and directing them to circulate Mr. Weddell's letter to all Collectors calling their attention to the importance of giving a liberal allowance of toddy shops to meet the requirements of the different districts.



Extract from the
Coimbatore District
Gazette of 18 May
1872 page 233.

M. A. G. M. L. R. 1876
No. 146

MISCELLANEOUS No.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1165
4

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 4th Augt 1876. M. 1979:-

Read the following

No. 146

From A. Wedderburn Esq
Collector of Coimbatore
To C. A. Galton Esq
Acting Secretary to the
Board of Revenue. Madras.
SIR,

Enclosures 2.

Copy of letter
from the Dy
Collector No. 137
of 8th July 1876.
1 - D^y from the
Dy. Collector
No. 199 of 11th
July 1876.

With reference to Proceedings
Board of Revenue dated 30 May 1876
No. 1415, regarding the alleged
illicit sale of Taddy interfer-
ing with the sale of cotton-
as reported by the Collector
of North Arcot in his District,
on which I am called on to
report as regards this District,
I have the honor to annex
Copies of letters from 2 of my

The report of
the Dy Collector
N. S. has
not as yet
been received.
It will be
sent as soon
as received.

Extract from the
Coimbatore District
Gazette of 18 May
1872 page 233.

M. A. French

read - 1st Sept 1876
by order of the 4th

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1165
4

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 4th Sept 1876. M. 1979:-
Read the following

N^o. 146

From A. Wedderburn Esq
Collector of Coimbatore
To C. A. Galton Esq
Acting Secretary to the
Board of Revenue. Madras.
Sir,

Enclosure 2.

Copy of letter
from the Sub
Collector No 137
of 8 July 1876.
1 - D^o from the
H. D. App. No
1199 of 11th
July 1876 -

With reference to Proceedings
Board of Revenue dated 30 May 1876
No 1415, regarding the alleged
illicit sale of Toddy interfer-
ing with the sale of toddy
as reported by the Collector
of North Arcot in his District,
on which I am called on to
report as regards this District,
I have the honor to annex
Copies of letters from 2 of my

The report of
the Dy Collector
N. D. has
not as yet
been received.
It will be
sent as soon
as received.

Division officers, on the subject -
from which it appears that
such illicit sales, when brought
to notice, are duly punished,
and have not been numerous.

2. I have no record
of such cases being brought
before me, in my own Division,
but I had one of illicit dis-
tillation of arrack, which
I severely punished.

3. There is no doubt, that
there has been a very much
larger consumption of illicit Tod-
dy, since its sale was sepa-
rated from that of arrack;
but this is natural, and was
the obvious intention of Govern-
ment.

1165/4
ment, when they discontinued
the sales. as an example, I
give the Oodumpehah Taluk
where $\frac{1}{2}$ million of people had
only 1 Toddy shop - now they
have 12, which is one shop
for 10,000 people.

hitherto
enough!
evident
deficiency

4. It is far more likely
cause for the less sale of sud-
der distillery arrack is
the preference of the people
for their old small still
arrack, which was strong,
undiluted, cheap and to
the taste of the people. So
far from the small sale
of the new system surprising
me, I am only surprised

I think when
first was a good
deal it is worth
rebutted enough

that it should have been
so large as it is.

5. If an attempt had
been made in a European
Country to change in one month,
the practice of centuries,
in thousands of villages, without
a large preventive service,
the attempt would have been
thought an insupportable one.

6. I proposed the gradual
decrease of small stills. Not
that they produce other than
the best of spirits, and at
all events, spirits, which
are preferred to the produce
of copper stills. in order
that, as desired by some persons,

1165/6
the new system might come into
eventual operation - the expe-
-rience of 3 years, would have
paved the way to the new sys-
-tem - but instead of this -
by a stroke of the pen, more
than 1000 stills were thrown
out of work, and what was the
day before legal, became, the
next day, illegal - the tastes
of the people were to be altered
in one day. This is a difficult
matter with nearly 2 millions
of people - but because cer-
-tain tenders were made,
the old system recommended
by me, and agreed to by the

Boon, was suddenly changed.

7. As regards ~~to~~ ^{the} consumption, licit or illicit, preventing the consumption of strack, it should be kept in mind, that the consumers of the liquors, are not always the same people. For instance, one class of the numerous consumers of toddy, is the woodmen, or "navvy" of the Country - who is always in work, blazing stone, sinking wells, and generally doing heavy earth works.

8. These powerful men are great consumers of toddy - they work in the sun, from

1165/7
from morning till night, at great expenditure of animal force - if they were to drink strack, they would simply unfit themselves for their muscular exertions. To them, toddy is a refreshing drink, with a large amount of saccharine nourishment therein.

9. It will be generally found that the people are the best judges of what suits their tastes, and constitutions - and I protested against any attempt, by the denial of toddy shops, to force the consumption of strack on the people - the fact is that the number

of shops for both toddy and
arrack should be equal,

not as now arranged, $\frac{1}{2}$ toddy ^{than old}
to 1 arrack - regarding even
which, an outcry has been
made.

10. If properly developed,
which is likely to result from
the separation of the sales of the
two liquors, there is every
chance of as large if not

larger, revenue being derived
from Toddy, than from
arrack - the consumption
of toddy could hardly be
guessed at, when the Contract
was given, the bidding doubled

10 shops for the
sale of old
some quantity
toddy for me
for the head of
arrack spirit
I don't know
the proportion
to the demand
whether they
know something
about it or
not

assumed

in the

the

the estimate, and nearly a
lac annually is now the reve-
= nue from it to Government.

11. At the conclusion
of this lease, I expect that
more than two lacs will be
offered - and Government
will have the satisfaction
of realizing a good revenue
from a less unwholesome
source than alcohol.

Shame &c.
Coimbatore Collector's
Office. 18 July 1895. J. A. Wedderburn
Collector.

I send also the following

Nº 95

From
A. M. Jones Esq
Deputy Collector N^o Division
To
A. Wedderburn Esq
Collector Coimbatore
Sir

Sir,

With reference to your
endorsement N^o 569 dated
16th ultimo, appended to
Revenue Board's Proceedings
N^o 1415, dated 30th May last.
I have the honor to inform you
that the practice of either
manufacturing or selling
toddy without a license, or selling
it at other than the places
specified in the license, does
not prevail largely in this
Division.

2. The Tahildar of
Kollegal reports that in 1875
in two cases one of selling
toddy without a license and the
other of selling it at other than
the

1165/19
the place specified in the
license, he convicted the
parties.

3. The Tahildar of Latti-
amangalam reports that
the Thavars (toddy drawers
by profession) draw toddy
for domestic consumption
from their Tapes and supply
them to their friends.

4. He reports that this
practice though not penal
under Section 28
of the Act (3 of 1864)
is most objectionable,
and that he has pu-
nished parties in a
few cases recently
charged before him under

*Note. The attention of the
Deputy Collector
and the Tahildar
has been called
to the order of govern-
ment on this subject.
1875/10. A. Wedderburn
Collector —

the authority of notification
published in the District
Gazette (page. cv. 233) of 1872.

5. The Tahildars have
been directed to give their
matter their personal attention
in the course of tours through
their Taluqs.

N. Division Dy Collector }
Officer. Sadevanam }
- golam. 18 July 1876 - } Deputy Collector.

True Copy

N^o. 154.

Submitted to the Board
of Revenue, with reference to
Collector's note in the margin
of para-1 of his letter dated
18th Decr. N^o. 146.

Coimbatore Collector's office }
Camp Pollashy. 26-7-76 }
Decr 28 - do - } Collector.

1165/10

Submitted for the
information of Government.

2. The Collector will
report what the proportions
of toddy to arrack shops
now is, and whether the num-
ber of the former is sufficient.

There would have been out-
cry had the number of shops
been fixed prior to the lease
of the arrack farm and
it rested with the Collector
to see that provision was
made for the wants of the
Toddy consumers. He should
explain why he did not
permit an equal number
of Toddy and arrack shops.

the
line.

12
if he thought it necessary and
should state whether any ad-
ditional shops were allow-
ed with reference to G. O.
dated 18 February 1846 No.
244 and whether any increase
is necessary at present.

True Copies and Extracts

Wm. Allen
As Secretary.

To
The Secretary to
Government R. D.

Wm. Allen

Rev. Paper
No 3223

Note for His Grace's
information

Memo

The decision will
be found at page XXVI
of the Appendix to
accompanying Vol. of
High Court Reports.

P. G. Aug 17/16

His Grace
the Governor

A.C. to His Grace 17: Aug R 24: Aug
C. to His Grace 16: Aug 17/16 R 17: Aug

Pro Dept

1165
14

No 1165

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 15th Aug^r 1876

Read Per: Board of Revenue

4: Aug 3, regarding illicit sale of tobacco
in Tanjore.

Resolved.

The Board will
circulate Mr. Wedderburn's letter to all
Collectors, and call their
attention to the importance
of giving a liberal allowance

Ind copy to the Boarding Officer, 26 Aug of 1000 Rs to meet the
14 Banded copies on 7 Sept ^{the different} requirements of Districts.

~~100~~
Mount ending to
Crimble St

100